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INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, DECEMBER 1986

PHONE INQUIRIES • *about these statistics*—contact Mrs Janet Gunn on Canberra (062) 52 6581 or any ABS State office.

• *about other statistics and ABS services*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6007, 52 6627, 52 5402 or any ABS State office.

MAIL INQUIRIES • *write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616* or any ABS State office.

ELECTRONIC SERVICES • on VIATEL — key *656+.

• on AUSSTATS — phone (062) 52 6017.

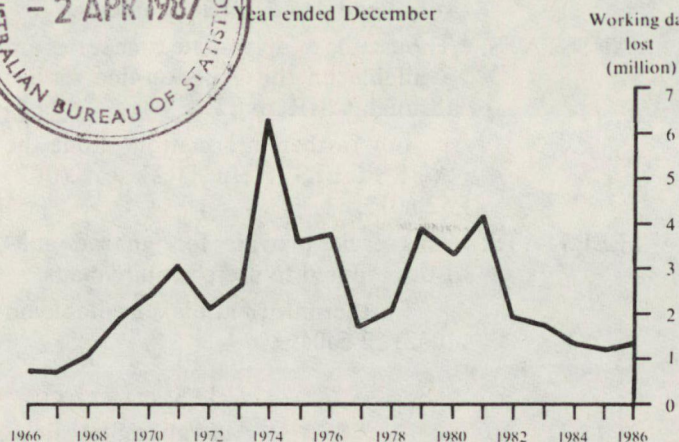
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MAIN FEATURES

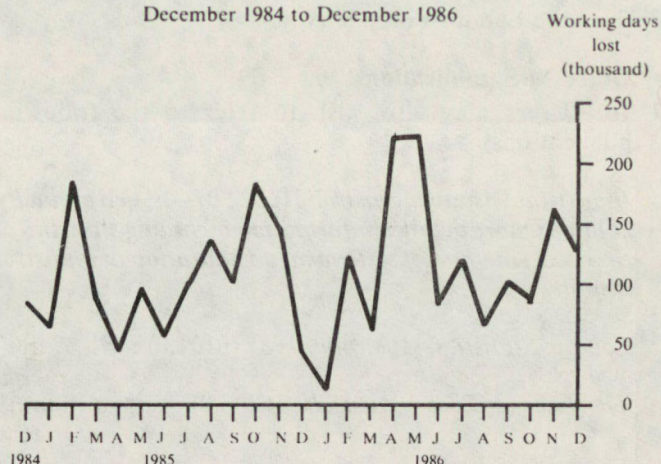
WORKING DAYS LOST, AUSTRALIA



Year ended December



December 1984 to December 1986



In December 1986 there were 128,800 working days lost by 49,000 workers in 124 disputes compared with 162,200 working days lost by 63,300 workers in 185 disputes in November 1986.

During 1986, a total of 1,390,700 working days was lost compared with 1,256,200 and 1,307,400 working days lost in the 12 months during 1985 and 1984 respectively.

The largest dispute in December 1986 involved nurses in Victoria.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Coverage

The statistics relate only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten working days or more *at the establishments where the stoppages occurred*. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day.

2. The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 4) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress during the reference period indicated.

3. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded

as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.

5. *Workers involved* include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Differences between monthly and annual totals of workers involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Workers re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

7. *Working days lost* refer to working days lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of workers involved and the duration of the dispute.

8. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes involving stoppages of work of ten working days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Working days lost in agriculture, etc. and in private households employing staff have been *excluded* from Tables 4 and 5 but *included* in Tables 1 to 3.

9. The estimates of numbers of employees are obtained from the Labour Force Survey.

Other ABS publications

10. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0)—issued annually, contains more detailed information including statistics on the cause, method of settlement and duration of industrial disputes.

Labour Statistics, Australia, 1985 (6101.0)

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

11. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

r figures revised since last issue

12. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Electronic services

13. VIATEL. Key *656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)	
Twelve months ended—					
December 1983	1,779	1,787	452.8	470.2	1,641.4
1984	1,958	1,965	551.1	560.3	1,307.4
1985	1,830	1,845	552.6	570.5	1,256.2
1986	1,680	1,687	673.7	675.9	1,390.8
1986—					
January	77	84	6.3	8.5	15.2
February	155	164	32.3	48.3	121.0
March	142	158	26.9	43.1	63.1
April	111	131	33.6	52.9	221.1
May	162	178	236.1	240.2	221.8
June	118	130	30.3	35.2	83.5
July	194	208	75.4	80.8	119.9
August	132	147	27.6	29.6	67.3
September	151	171	53.9	64.1	102.7
October	r177	r195	r70.6	r74.6	r84.2
November	r162	r185	r49.0	r63.3	r162.2
December	99	124	31.9	49.0	128.8

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	Manufacturing							
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)	All industries
	Coal	Other						
Twelve months ended—								
December 1983	122.8	194.7	157.6	120.7	337.2	213.6	494.8	1,641.4
1984	131.1	193.2	144.8	249.3	116.3	150.6	322.1	1,307.4
1985	233.8	106.4	107.3	189.4	175.3	180.4	263.7	1,256.2
1986	362.0	179.4	187.4	205.3	117.7	57.6	281.4	1,390.7
1986—								
January	1.5	1.0	1.7	1.3	4.3	2.8	2.6	15.2
February	83.3	6.6	4.0	3.3	5.3	3.8	14.8	121.0
March	15.6	5.0	12.2	9.8	3.4	8.5	8.7	63.1
April	150.7	22.9	7.3	11.8	4.4	4.6	19.4	221.1
May	23.1	20.7	82.2	18.9	52.2	11.6	13.1	221.8
June	6.5	29.2	9.0	12.8	9.1	9.3	7.6	83.5
July	17.5	28.4	9.2	30.7	6.9	9.9	17.2	119.9
August	5.3	31.6	7.0	11.0	3.3	2.6	6.6	67.3
September	6.8	11.6	11.8	48.1	7.0	1.1	16.3	102.7
October	18.8	2.7	19.1	18.4	3.2	r1.7	20.4	r84.2
November	r20.1	8.3	19.4	25.5	r10.0	r0.8	78.2	r162.2
December	12.7	11.5	4.5	13.7	8.7	1.1	76.7	128.8

(a) Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	N. S. W.	Vic.	Qld	S. A.	W. A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)
Twelve months ended—							
December 1983	801.2	257.7	135.0	87.7	270.6	67.8	1,641.4
1984	660.6	187.5	236.5	25.5	119.2	50.5	1,307.4
1985	398.7	355.9	336.2	22.5	92.9	20.7	1,256.2
1986	598.8	381.8	173.4	46.2	143.1	29.2	1,390.7
1986—							
January	5.7	4.8	1.1	0.7	1.7	0.8	15.2
February	82.1	6.9	20.3	1.8	5.6	1.8	121.0
March	37.3	12.2	3.4	2.3	4.1	0.8	63.1
April	119.3	19.6	57.2	1.6	20.7	0.3	221.1
May	91.5	69.0	13.5	19.9	18.2	7.0	221.8
June	54.4	12.2	3.9	0.7	3.2	8.0	83.5
July	59.9	20.5	19.9	3.6	12.7	2.6	119.9
August	12.6	11.8	7.4	2.9	31.7	0.6	67.3
September	33.6	29.5	18.9	3.1	13.4	1.5	102.7
October	37.7	r27.9	6.0	2.1	7.3	1.7	r84.2
November	r45.2	81.1	16.5	4.1	11.1	3.2	r162.2
December	19.4	86.4	5.3	3.4	13.4	0.8	128.8

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period								
	Mining		Manufacturing		Construc- tion	Transport and storage; Communi- cation	Other industries (a)	All industries
	Coal	Other	Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other				
Twelve months ended—								
December 1983	3,223	3,375	353	186	1,269	485	42	249
1984	3,543	3,286	327	387	427	346	94	246
1985	6,739	1,724	242	296	580	404	75	230
1986	10,283	2,698	432	318	381	127	76	246

(a) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff.

CHART 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 1985 AND 1986

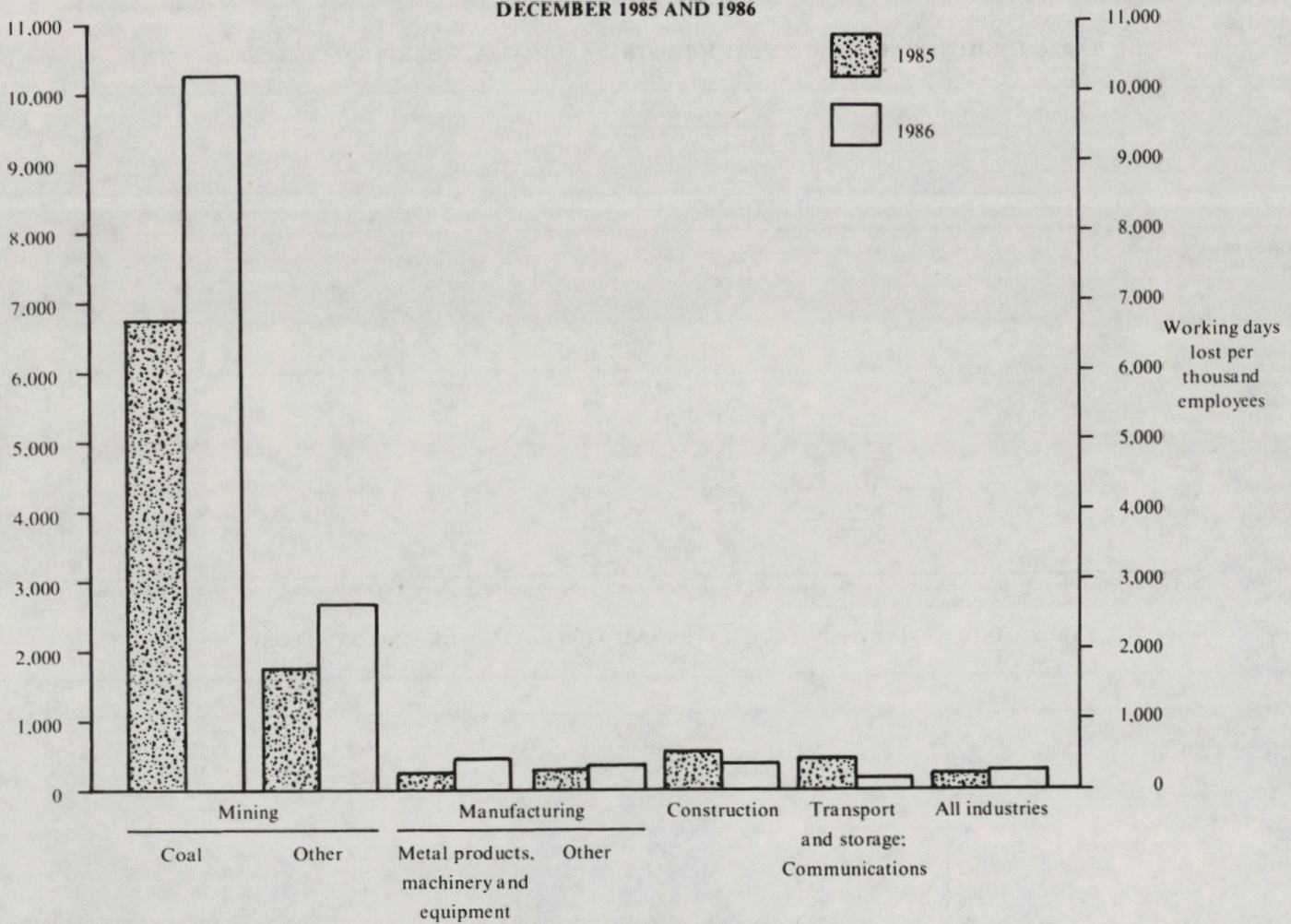


TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
Twelve months ended—							
December 1983	287	163	176	115	577	478	249
1984	355	131	301	56	251	352	246
1985	209	239	417	48	190	145	230
1986	305	249	204	96	282	199	246

(a) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

CHART 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 1985 AND 1986

